Applicants: Mui et al. Serial No.: 09/655,733

Filing Date: September 6, 2000

Docket No.: ZIL-237

Amendments to the Specification:

Please incorporate the subject matter of original claims 8, 15, 16 and 19 into the specification by adding the following three new paragraphs beginning at line 12 of page 3 of the specification after the words ". . .that generate sound" and before the paragraph that begins "Additional features," as follows:

In one embodiment, a device other than audio-video equipment comprises a receiver and a decoder. The receiver receives wireless control signals of the type emitted by a plurality of remote controls that individually emit their control signals with a different one of a plurality of distinct signal protocols to specify individual functions to be performed by different types of audio-video equipment that individually respond to one of the plurality of protocols. The decoder is connected to the receiver to identify one of the plurality of signal protocols for a received control signal from a specific remote control and to decode therefrom the function represented thereby. The decoded function is performed within the device. In one example, the wireless control signals include infra-red radiation pulses.

Another embodiment is a toy that comprises a sound generator, a receiver and a decoder. The receiver receives wireless control signals of the type emitted by a plurality of remote controls that individually emit their control signals with a different one of a plurality of distinct protocols to specify individual functions to be performed by different types of audio-video equipment that individually respond to one of the plurality of protocols. The individual functions include a function of muting a sound output of the corresponding piece of audio-video equipment. The decoder is connected to the receiver to identify one of the plurality of signal protocols of a received control signal from a specific remote control, and to decode therefrom the muting function represented thereby. In response, the decoder mutes the toy sound generator.

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Yet another embodiment comprises a photo-detector, a memory and a micro-controller. The photo-detector is adapted to receive infra-red radiation and generate an electrical signal proportional thereto. The memory stores identification data of each of a plurality of infra-red functions within the individual infra-red signal protocols for which identification data is stored. The plurality of infra-red protocols and control function signal patterns are those of a plurality of remote controls for a corresponding plurality of types of audio-video equipment. The micro-controller compares the photo-detector electrical signal with the memory data for decoding a received infra-red radiation signal to identify the infra-red signal protocol and control function. The embodiment also includes a device that is controlled in accordance with the decoded control function.